



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

45 June 9, 2015


PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

June 09, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO SPONSOR WATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AND PUBLICATIONS (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

This action is to authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee, acting on behalf of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts, to sponsor events, activities, and publications with various water resource associations and others that address issues related to water supply and stormwater management.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

1. Find that the proposed delegation of authority to the Director of Public Works to sponsor water-related events, activities, and publications is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this letter.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee, acting as the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, to sponsor various events, activities, and publications on issues related to regional water supply, flood protection, water conservation, urban runoff management, water quality, and funding for water infrastructure projects for a period of 5 years from Fiscal Year 2015-16 through Fiscal Year 2019-20 at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 annually, or \$125,000 over the 5-year period, and to negotiate and execute any agreements necessary for the payment of such fees.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICTS:

1. Find that the proposed delegation of authority to the Director of Public Works to sponsor water-related events, activities, and publications is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this letter.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee, acting as the District Engineer of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts, to sponsor various events, activities, and publications on issues related to regional water supplies, water conservation, water quality, and funding for water infrastructure projects for a period of 5 years from Fiscal Year 2015-16 through Fiscal Year 2019-20 at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 annually to be equally funded by Waterworks District No. 29, Malibu, and Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, or \$25,000 over the 5-year period, and to negotiate and execute any agreements necessary for the payment of such fees.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to allow the Director of Public Works (Public Works) or her designee, in her capacity as Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and District Engineer of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (WWDs), to sponsor water-related events, activities, and publications through the contribution of funds for a period of 5 years between Fiscal Year 2015-16 through Fiscal Year 2019-20. Each year, professional water resource associations host events where well-regarded spokespersons from academia, government policymakers, and industry present ideas and efforts that focus on water policy, stormwater management, water conservation, groundwater replenishment, water quality, ecosystem restoration, and green technology innovation. Sponsorship of these events, activities, and publications would enhance and highlight the LACFCD and WWD's regional leadership role in the water management arena.

Sponsorship often includes attendance at the events, providing the LACFCD and/or WWDs opportunities for staff to attend and foster partnerships with water agencies to address regional water issues.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provisions of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) and Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3). Implementation of the recommended actions will provide Public Works with additional opportunities to collaborate with private industries, nonprofit organizations, and municipal water and flood control agencies on water resource and stormwater management issues which are essential for effective decision making, policy formation, and delivery of public services.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The total expenditures of the LACFCD for the 5 years of sponsorship of various water resource and stormwater management events, activities, and publications will not exceed \$25,000 for each fiscal year and will not exceed \$125,000 over the 5-year authorization period. The \$25,000 for the first year will be made available in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 LACFCD budget. The annual amount for the

subsequent 4 years will be addressed in the corresponding LACFCD annual budget process.

The total expenditures of the WWDs for the 5 years of sponsorship of various water resource events, activities, and publications will not exceed \$5,000 for each fiscal year and will not exceed \$25,000 over the 5-year authorization period. These funds will be equally funded by WWD No. 29, Malibu, Fund N32; and WWD No. 40, Antelope Valley, Fund N63. The \$5,000 for the first year of the sponsorship is included in the Los Angeles County WWDs' 29 and 40 Fiscal Year 2015-16 General Fund budgets. The annual amount for the subsequent 4 years will be addressed in the corresponding WWDs' annual budget process.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to as set forth in § 2 of the Los Angeles Flood Control Act, the objects and purposes of Flood Control District are "to provide for the control and conservation of the flood, storm and other waste waters of said district, and to conserve these waters for beneficial and useful purposes by spreading, storing, retaining or causing to percolate into the soil within the district, or to save or conserve in any manner, all or any of these waters, and to protect from damage from flood or storm waters, the harbors, waterways, public highways and property in the district, and to provide for public use of navigable waterways under the district's control that are suitable for recreational and educational purposes, when these purposes are not inconsistent with the use thereof by the district for flood control and water conservation." (Water Code Appendix, § 28-2.)

Moreover, pursuant to § 55330 and § 55331 of the State Water Code, the WWDs "may provide for the supplying of the inhabitants of the district with water for irrigation, domestic, industrial, or fire protection purposes, and may provide for the development and conservation of water supplies for those purposes" and may do all things necessary or proper to accomplish this purpose.

The actions recommended under this Board letter are consistent with and will help to further these purposes. As discussed above, the events, activities, and publications to be sponsored will address issues such as stormwater management; water conservation; groundwater replenishment; water quality improvement; and the storage, distribution, and control of water during wet and dry years.

In order to sponsor an event, activity, or publication, the LACFCD and/or WWDs may be required to enter into an agreement with the water resource association. Any such agreement would be limited by the not-to-exceed dollar amounts set forth above. Such agreements will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel prior to execution.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Sponsoring an event, activity, or publication is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an activity that is excluded from the definition of a project by § 15378(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. This proposed action is an administrative activity of government, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no adverse impact on current County services.

CONCLUSION

Please return two adopted copies of this letter to Public Works, Watershed Management Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Farber". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Gail" and last name "Farber" clearly legible.

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:ARG:sw

c: Chief Executive Office (Rochelle Goff)
County Counsel
Executive Office